Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4693

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CONFIDENTIAL ANKARA 6536

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CY, TU

SUBJ: ASILTURK'S STATEMENTS ON UDI

REF: A) NICOSIA 2455 (DTG 231449Z AUG 76) B) ANKARA 5579(DTG 210915Z JUL 76) (NOTAL)

1. WE AGREE THAT STATEMENTS BY TURKISH MINISTER OF INTERIOR ASILTURK REPORTED REF A ARE UNHELPFUL AND PROVOCATIVE. THEY ARE NOT ENTIRELY NEW, HOWEVER, SINCE ASILTURK'S NATIONAL SALVATION APRTY (NSP) IS ALREADY ON RECORD OPPOSING ANY TERRITORIAL ADJUSTMENTS IN CYPRUS AND SUPPORTING THE CONCEPT OF A TURKISH CYPRIOT UNILATERAL DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE (UDI). NSP CHAIRMAN ERBAKAN, IN A STATEMENT ISSUED JULY 20, 1976 IN COMMEMORATION OF THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF THE TURKISH INTERVENTION IN CYPRUS, FIRST MADE THE SUGGESTION (WHICH ASILTURK REPEATED CONFIDENTIAL

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THIS WEEK) THAT TURKISH REPUBLIC DAY (OCTOBER 29) MIGHT

BE AN APPROPRIATE TIME FOR A TURKISH CYPRIOT UDI (REF B).

- 2. WHILE WE AGREE WITH EMBASSY NICOSIA'S JUDGMENT THAT SUCH STATEMENTS BY HIGH LEVEL GOT OFFICIALS COULD TEND TO LEND RESPECTABILITY TO THE CONCEPT OF UDI, WE ARE NOT CERTAIN THAT THIS IS THE CASE WITH RESPECT TO STATEMENTS BY NSP MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT. THE INABILITY OF DEMIREL TO CONTROL THE PUBLIC STATEENTS OF NSP CABINET MEMBERS IS WELL KNOWN. IT IS ALSO UNDERSTOOD HERE IN ANKARA THAT THESE STAEMENTS, WHICH ARE REGULARLY DISAVOWED BY THE MFA, HAVE VIRTUALLY NO EFFECT ON GOT FOREIGN POLICY. IN FACT, THIS MOST RECENT ASILTURK STATEMENT HAS, SINCE DISPATCH OF REF A, BEEN DESCRIBED BY MFA OFFICIALS AS A PURELY PERSONAL STATEMENT AND NOT REPRESENTATIVE OF GOVERNMENT POSITION.
- 3. IN VIEW OF THE TOTAL LACK OF PROGRESS TOWARD A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT DURING THE LAST FEW MONTHS, WE THINK A TURKISH CYPRIOT UDI HAS BECOME AN INCREASING POSSIBILITY, ALTHOUGH NOT YET AN IMMEDIATE DANGER, IMPORTANT FORCES HERE (THE TWO LARGEST POLITICAL PARTIES AND MUCH OF THE MILITARY) REMAIN STRONGLY OPPOSED TO UDI. HOWEVER, THE MARKED PROCLIVITY OF BOTH SIDES TO GIVE EACH OTHER OPPORTUNITIES TO FRUSTRATE HOPES FOR NEGOTIATIING PROGRESS MAY, IN THE LONG RUN, PRODUCE UDI. HOWEVER, WHILE WE WILL CONTINUE ON THE BASIS OF OUR NORMAL MFA CONTACTS TO EXPRESS CONCERN ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF UDI--AND ON THIS BASIS CAN REGISTER CONCERN SPECIFICALLY ABOUT ASILTURK'S PERSONAL COMMENTS ON UDI--WE BELIEVE HIGH LEVEL US DEMARCHES SHOULD BE RESERVED FOR THE TIME WHEN UDI BECOMES A MORE IMMEDIATE DANGER. MACOMBER

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